

**REMARKS**

**Status of Claims and Amendment**

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-28 are all the pending claims in the present application.

Claim 6 has been amended to even further clarify that the claimed protein may be selected from a modified protein comprising an amino acid sequence in which 1 to 30 amino acids are deleted, substituted, inserted, or added in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, and having an endoglucanase activity. Support for the amendment to claim 6 may be found, e.g., at paragraph [0029] of the specification.

No new matter is added.

**Response To Restriction Requirement**

This responds to the Restriction Requirement, dated January 24, 2008. In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant elects Invention I (claims 1-6 and 16-18) for examination, with traverse.

The Restriction Requirement is traversed on the grounds that the same or corresponding technical feature shared among Inventions 1 to 3 is not a protein having endoglucanase activity, as pointed out by the Office Action, but a protein having endoglucanase activity which is derived from a microorganism belonging to genus *Staphylotrichum* (claim 1), or comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 (Length: 295 amino acids) or a homologous sequence thereof (claim 6). In contrast, the 43 kD endoglucanase disclosed in the Rasmussen et al. reference (WO

91/17243) cited by the Office Action was derived from *Humicola insolens*, and has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 (305 amino acids) shown in the Sequence Listing appended to WO 91/17243. In this regard, the full length of claimed SEQ ID NO: 3 corresponds to a mature protein, whereas SEQ ID NO:2 of WO 91/17243 corresponds to a signal sequence portion (amino acids -21 to -1) and a mature protein portion (amino acids 1 to 284).

As described above, the technical feature of the claimed invention is not disclosed in the WO 91/17243 reference, and thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention makes a contribution over the state of the art.

Applicant further submits that if any of the elected claims are found to be allowable, claims dependent therefrom should similarly be considered allowable in the same application.

Applicant reserves the right to file a Divisional Application directed to non-elected claims 7-15 and 19-28.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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